for recruitment since their services were also required in the operational areas.

Each case of non-detection of a disease at the Recruiting Medical Examination is enquired into and suitable administrative/disciplinary action taken.

The newly posted Recruiting Medical Officers are being provided special training in Military Hospitals for conducting medical examination at recruitment rallies.

Steps to keep the army young

†1667. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year 1985 a recommendation was made to this effect that the period of 17 years for the postings of 'fighter' soldiers at front be reduced to 7 years to keep the army 'young';

(b) whether it is also a fact that a suggestion was made to Government that after 7 years those soldiers be sent to the para-military forces;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon and the quantum of financial burden likely to be borne by the Government as a result thereof;

(d) by when a final decision will be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A Study was conducted in 1985, to explore the feasibility of reverting back to the pre January, 1965 status of 7 years colour service for Army personnel instead of 17 years introduced in June 1979 in order to realize a younger age profile in Combat Arms in the wake of intensive Counter Insurgency Operations.

(b) to (e) The Government is considering a proposal for lateral transfer of army personnel to Central Para Military Forces. The details/ modalities for lateral transfer are being worked out.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.